

Advance Medical Directives:

It is the right of every person to have an "advance medical directive. An advanced medical directive is a written document that sets forth a person's desires concerning what medical care is to be provided should he/she become incapable of making healthcare decisions for themselves. It can also give another person the legal authority to make healthcare decisions on behalf of a person who has become mentally incapacitated. Living wills and durable healthcare powers of attorney are both advanced medical directives. A living will is a written document that sets forth a person's desires concerning the medical care that he will receive should he become terminally ill or when his death is imminent. A living will may specify which medical treatments should be provided, as well as which medical treatments should not. A durable healthcare power of attorney is a written document which gives another person (known as the agent, proxy or surrogate) legal authority to make healthcare decisions. This document is valid for any period of mental incapacitation.

All competent adults have the moral and legal right to participate in their medical treatment decisions and to refuse medical treatment even in life-saving or life-sustaining situations. This includes the right to prepare advanced medical directives concerning their medical care. Anyone having advanced medical directives must inform their primary care managers accordingly. They must also provide copies to their physicians or the outpatient records room. Anyone who desires to make cadaver donations must coordinate with the medical institutions of their choice. Advance arrangements must be made between the donor and the medical institution that will be receiving the body.

An advanced medical directive may be revoked or changed at any time. You can verbally inform your primary care managers or providers if they wish to change it. To formally change an advanced medical directive contact your legal assistance office. If you do not currently have an advanced medical directive and would like to get one, the legal assistance office at your nearest military facility is available to provide legal advice and assist you in preparing one. Since local laws vary from state to state, it is suggested that you verify that an advanced medical directive prepared in one state continues to be valid when a move to another state has taken place.

SOURCE: James Tichacek RAO Bulletin

Flag Display Guideline:

An Online source of information concerning the display the United States flag is available at http://www.ctssar.org/flag_etiquette.htm